Inside Wallops

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Goddard Space Flight Center
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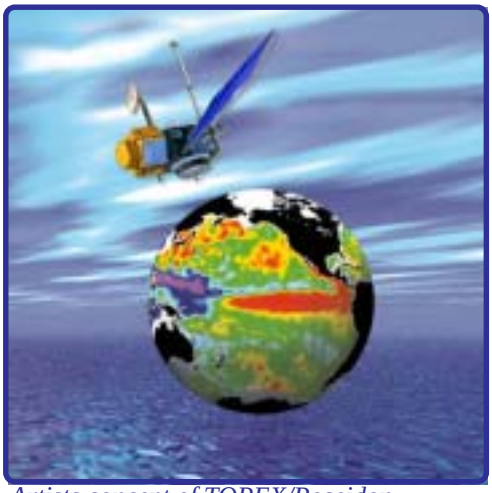
NASA's Topex/Poseidon Oceanography Mission Ends

The joint NASA/Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales TOPEX/Poseidon oceanography satellite has ceased operations after nearly 62,000 Earth orbits. The spacecraft lost its ability to maneuver, bringing to a close a successful 13-year mission.



Artists concept of TOPEX/Poseidon

"TOPEX/Poseidon revolutionized the study of Earth's oceans, providing the first continuous, global coverage of ocean surface topography allowing us to see important week-to-week oceanic variations," said Mary Cleave, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. "Its data made a huge difference in our understanding of the oceans and their affect on global climatic conditions."

Data from TOPEX/Poseidon has helped in hurricane and El Nino/La Nina forecasting, ocean and climate research, ship routing, offshore industries, fisheries management, marine mammals' research, modernizing global tide models and ocean debris tracking.

"TOPEX/Poseidon was built to fly up to five years, but it became history's longest Earth-orbiting radar mission," said Project Scientist Lee-Lueng Fu of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Beginning in the late 1970s, a team from Wallops Flight Facilty, (WFF), functioned as the experiment management team for the radar altimeter, the primary scientific instrument on the TOPEX mission.

The WFF team was responsible for the design, development and delivery of the radar altimeter. In 1984, the team provided the TOPEX altimeter specification and requirements document. The WFF team also worked on the development of the ground processing algorithms and operations documents.

After the satellite was launched in 1992, WFF remained responsible for the health monitoring, commanding, and calibration of the TOPEX altimeter and the maintenance of the altimeter instrument processing algorithms. In 1999, the WFF team detected changes in the performance of the altimeter and led efforts to switch from side A to the redundant side B to insure the continued high quality performance of the altimeter data. This switch including instrument verification was successfully conducted in less than a 10-day data cycle period. WFF continued to monitor the operations and calibration of side B until the end of the mission.

Some of the Wallops employees supporting the TOPEX mission have retired while others are still actively working the mission. They include: Larry Rossi, David Hancock, George Hayne, Ron Forsythe, Craig Purdy, Norm Schultz, Barton Bull, Jan Neville, Andrew Green, Ann McDowell, Dennis Lockwood, Jeff Lee, Ron Brooks, Carol Purdy, Hayden Gordon, Annette Conger, and Lisa Brittingham.

Jason, a follow-on oceanography mission launched in December 2001, is continuing TOPEX/Poseidon's study. TOPEX/Poseidon's stellar performance allowed it to fly in tandem with Jason for nearly three years, doubling data collection.

The WFF radar altimeter team remains involved with the JASON-1 mission and with the Navy GEOSAT follow on radar altimeter mission.

NSROC Employees Receive Recognition

Congratulations to the following NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, (NSROC), employees that were recently recognized for service awards.

35 Years - Kenneth Tull

30 Years - Eric Johnson

25 Years - Dave Lang, Jim Diehl, Bert Lewis, and Stephen Vass

20 Years - Lee Miles, Chris Lankford, Dave Boulter, and at White Sands Missile Range - Carlos Martinez, Bruce Howard, Kenneth Starr, Becky Grzelachowski

15 Years - Dave Burkhead, Brian Rose, Bernita Justis, and Gari Currier

NSROC also presented the following awards:

Extra Mile Award
Sylvia Onions, Jim Deaton, Roger Chandler, Pat Fries, Shelby Elborn, Tom Russell, Charles Lankford, Scott Hesh, Dale Henderson and Sara Daisey

Diligence Award
Jarret Morton and Brian Creighton

Beating the Estimate Award
Gary Harlan

Outstanding Leadership Award
Tom Shockley and Ed White

Outstanding Accomplishment in Master Cam/Solid Works Interface
Greg Jones

Outstanding Apprentice
Lee Miles and Mike Bradshaw

Overall Machine Shop Dedication
Harold Farrington

Wallops Safety Awareness Campaign

Wallops Flight Facility will be conducting a Safety Awareness Campaign on January 18 and 19. Management commitment to safety and the desire for a safe and healthful workplace at Wallops is the main focus of activities

An All Hands meeting will be held in the Gym, Bldg. D-10, to introduce the campaign and the groups that support the safety effort. Directorate All Hands meetings will follow to focus on the WFF Safety Program and Safety Walk-Throughs by senior managers in some of the WFF work centers. There will be a meeting of all supervisors (civil service and contractor) to discuss the supervisor's roles and responsibilities in the WFF safety program.

On Thursday, supervisors will be providing safety awareness activities for their work centers. This will be supported by a number of safety workshops in Bldg. E-104 and safety videos played throughout the day on Wallops TV Channel 7.

January 18

9 – 9:30 a.m.	**Campaign Kick-Off All Hands in D-10** Displays by Safety Groups - Range Safety Group - Occupational Safety & Health Group - Contractor Safety Council - Safety & Environmental Division - Fire Department - Aviation Safety Officer
10 a.m. – noon	**Safety Walk-Throughs by Management in N-159, F-2, F-16**
10 – 11:30 a.m.	**Codes 800 & 400 All-Hands in Bldg. D-10**
10:30 a.m. – noon	**Codes 500 & 600 All-Hands in Bldg. E-2**
1 – 2 p.m.	**WFF Supervisors and Team Leads in Bldg. D-10**
2 – 3 p.m.	**Safety Walk-Throughs in Bldgs. F-10, F-7, N-162**
2 – 3:30 p.m.	**Codes 200, 100 & 700 All Hands in Bldg. D-10**

American Red Cross
Wallops Blood Drive

Wednesday, January 25
Building F-3 (Rocket Club)
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To schedule an appointment call the Health Unit at x1266.

Boating Skills & Seamanship Class

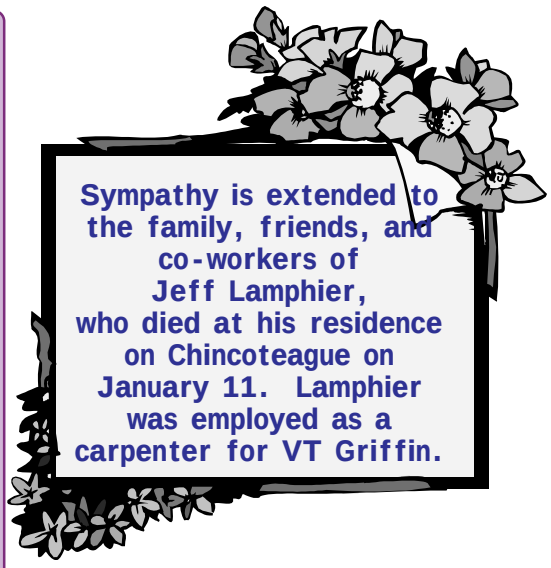
Beginning January 18 - 7 p.m. at the Atlantic, (Va.) Fire Company. Given By: U.S.C.G. Auxiliary, Flotilla 12-06 Chincoteague.The cost is $35 per person

The class will last approximately 10 weeks. For additional information call Johnny Conquest at 824-1485 or by email: Conquest@Intercom.Net

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Engineering Building:
The underground electrical below slab is almost complete with rough in and also the same for the plumbing underground for the first floor as well as some of the underground mechanical systems piping. Approximately 90% of the concrete slabs are in place and steel erection is going at a very good pace. Stair towers are in place and the concrete floors are in place in the stairwells. A look ahead for the next two weeks will include the completion of all slab on grade placement. Complete installation of steel series one and plumb all steel.

Project Support:
The footers and foundations are 98% complete. Electrical rough for underground is in progress, and the masonry for the stem walls is well underway. Footers and foundations will be completed this week. Underslab plumbing will be started this week for the main building area. The placement of the main slab for the facility is scheduled for the end of January.



Sympathy is extended to the family, friends, and co-workers of Jeff Lamphier, who died at his residence on Chincoteague on January 11. Lamphier was employed as a carpenter for VT Griffin.

Mentoring Program

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) is accepting applications through January 24 for the 2006 Wallops Mentoring Program. Anyone interested in the program should register on line at: http://www.mentoringconnection.com, indicating that you are at Wallops. The Group ID is: GSFC2006.

The Wallops orientation will be from 1 to 3 p.m., January 24 in Bldg. E-2. Direct questions to Mark Goldman at x66-8852 or by e-mail: mark.s.goldman@nasa.gov

Winter Really Did Arrive in December *by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist*

During the first 22 days of December 2005 there were 3 days and 4 nights with temperatures at or above normal. There were nine days when highs were above normal with the last eight nights at or above normal. The average temperature for the month was 38 degrees. The warmest day occurred on the 4th with a reading of 58 degrees. A 20 degree reading on December 14 was the coolest reading.

Measurable rain fell on nine days for a total of 3.58 inches. Average rainfall for December is 3.25 inches. Measurable snow fell on two days, December 5 and 6, depositing a total of 3.1 inches. We normally receive 1.4 inches of snow in December. Winds of greater than 30 mph were recorded on 7 days with the strongest wind recorded, 39 mph, at 6:31 a.m. on December 9.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov
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